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From: IPC-CELL (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - QF1)
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Subject: URGENT: UK IPC guidance consensus by 12md 23rd Dec 2020
Date: 22 December 2020 17:01:40

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for meeting today to discuss two papers (previously emailed) on SARs-CoV-2 VOC-202012/01:

- Rapid review of the literature SARS-CoV-2 variant VUI-202012/01: Implications for infection control within health and care settings
- SPI-M approved summary document: Estimating the importance of different routes of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in hospital settings

Based on the rapid review it was agreed that there is currently insufficient evidence to change the IPC/ PPE precautions in response to the emergence of this variant strain. The UK IPC cell, PHE have agreed to continue to monitor and review the emerging evidence and data and if this situation changes amend the guidance accordingly. This rapid evidence review has not identified a change in the mode of transmission between this variant strain and previous circulating strains of SARS- CoV-2 and therefore it was agreed that there should be no changes to the PPE recommendations as currently set out in the guidance until more evidence/data is available.

However, there was some discussion around increasing the use of FFP3 respirators in clinical areas where AGPs are **not** regularly being undertaken in the high-risk pathway. In the recent round of revisions requested to the existing guidance, it was agreed the sessional use of FFP3 for 'AGP hot spot areas' was to be added.

Can you confirm by return (midday tomorrow) whether you wish to recommend the use of FFP3 respirators in the high-risk pathway?

In relation to the SPI-M paper, it was agreed to strengthen the UK IPC guidance recommendation/ requirement for:

- The wearing of facemasks by all inpatients at all times across all care pathways, providing this is tolerated by the patient and ensuring this is not detrimental to medical/care needs.
- Highlight that adherence with the guidance must be considered across all Trusts/areas.
- Where possible (ensuring it is not detrimental to care) limit patient movement in hospital settings.
- Highlight the need for rapid testing particularly in high or increasing prevalence areas for staff and patients.

Kind regards,



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